SOME

Seasonable and Modest

THOUGHTS,

Partly occasioned *by*, and partly *concerning* the

Scots East-India COMPANY.

Humbly offered to *R. H.* Esq; a Member of the present PARLIAMENT.

By an unfeigned and hearty Lover of ENGLAND.

Printed in the Year 1696.

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Some ſeaſonable and modeſt Thoughts, *partly occaſioned* by, *and partly* concerning *the* Scots Eaſt-India Company.

SIR,

THIS Paper would not come addreſſed to you, if I knew any in your *Houſe*, to whom for all intellectual and moral Qualities it might more juſtly be inſcribed and dedicated: Your admirable Knowledg, ſteady Vertue, unſtained Honour, and unwearied Application, which do ſo well qualify you at all times, and eſpecially at this *critical* Juncture, to be an uſeful Member of the Great *Senate*, and which do ſo ſingularly adapt you to co-operate with ſuch others there, as are guided by *Love* to their *Country*, and the old *Maximsof Engliſh Policy*, to ſave this *Nation* from menacing and impending Ruin, to recover it to Honour abroad, and preſerve it in Peace at home, and to retrieve our Traffick, and render it ſafe and proſperous, do make you the worthy Object of all honeſt Mens Love and Eſteem, and do conciliate all thoſe to be your Servants as well as your Friends, who do either reſpect themſelves or their Poſterity. Nor could any thing have entitled you to be thus applied unto by an unknown Perſon, ſave the Opinion which I have of your *Wiſdom* and *Juſtice*; and that as you are able to judg of what is here repreſented, that you will likewiſe do it with an Equity becoming the Merit of the Cauſe, and not under the Biaſs either of antient Piques, or of ſuppoſed preſent Emulations between theſe two *Britiſh Kingdoms.*

SIR, I ſhall not now diſpute, whether the World might not have been happier by its continuance under Confinement, and ſtak'd down to *Agriculture*, and thoſe *Mechanick Arts* that are needful to the Conveniences of Life, (without purveying

for our Pride and Senſuality) than it is by launching out into that meaſure and degree of *Mercantile* Commerce which has excited our Luſts as well as fed them, and given provocation to Vice by yielding Fewel to it. But ſome Nations having departed from the antient ſimplicity of Living contented with the Productions of their own Countries, and having by Navigation and Trade, raiſed themſelves to Wealth, Power, and increaſe of Inhabitants; it thereupon grew neceſſary for other Nations to fall into the like Methods, leſt otherwiſe they ſhould have been a Prey, as well as a Deriſion, to them whom *Trade* had rendred Mighty and Opulent: So that now the Application unto, and the Encouragement and Protection of *Trade*, is not a Matter of meer Choice and Diſcretion, but of indiſpenſible *Neceſſity* for every Kingdom that is qualified by their Situation for it, and would not be contemned and inſulted, and lie continually expoſed to be conquered by any ambitious and encroaching Neighbours, whom *Trade* hath made Wealthy and Powerful: For as *Trade* is a richer and more durable *Mine* than any in *Mexico* or *Peru*, and whence a Nation may conſtantly derive an Increaſe of *Bullion* and *Coin*, ſo in proportion to its plenty of Money will it flouriſh at Home, and be terrible Abroad; and anſwerable to the Meaſures that any Country or Kingdom arriveth at in Foreign Commerce and Traffick, will it proportionably grow, not only in *Naval* Strength, but in *Military* Force by Land: Of which not only the *Phenicians* and *Carthaginians* of old, and long after them the *Venetians*, *Genoueſe*, and *Portugueſe* are famous Inſtances; but whereof the *Dutch* are in a ſpecial manner an amazing and illuſtrious Example; who tho they have narrow and ſcanty Territories, live under a bad Air, dwell upon a watery and unhealthy Soil, and have ſcarce any native Productions of their own, but are forced to fetch their Bread, their Drink, their Raiment from elſewhere; yet through the meer purſuit of, and application to *Trade*, they not only rival the greateſt Kings and moſt potent Kingdoms in powerful *Navies*, and warlike *Armies*, but they give Laws to ſeveral mighty Monarchs and States in all the known Parts of the World. And forasmuch as Money will always procure Men, they do in the Virtue thereof ſupply themſelves from time to time with vaſt Numbers of Souldiers from divers parts of *Europe*; and

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without imploying any, or at leaſt very few of their own People, they do by their Acquiſitions in way of Trade, muſter and keep up large Armies, both for their own *Defence* in times of Peace as well as of War; which their living upon a *Continent* ſurrounded with Neighbours who envy their Proſperity, and are jealous of their Power, rendereth neceſſary; and alſo for the *Offence* of thoſe that ſeek to encroach upon or inſult them. So that by their meer *Money*, which is the Reſult and Product of *Trade*, they purchaſe Men to ſhed their Blood, and to loſe their Lives in defending them againſt, and in the making Conqueſts for them upon others: And the Nature of War being changed from what antiently it was, when Courage and Bravour often decided a Quarrel between States and Kingdoms in a Day, and ſeldom miſſed putting an End to a War, either by Victory or Accommodation, within the Circle of one *Campaign*; the Succeſs of it now is come to depend upon the largeſt *Purſe*, and not the braveſt *Troops*; and they who have *moſt Money*, tho not always the *valianteſt Men*, will have the better in the *War*, though they may ſometimes have the worſt in a *Battel*: So that no *poor* Nation can in the way that *War* is now managed, carry an *Offenſive* War againſt a *Wealthy*, tho it may poſſibly through ſome Advantages peculiar to it, be in a condition to maintain a *Defenſive*; as the *Switzers*, who through plenty of brave Men, and by reaſon of the ſituation of their Countrey, may continue a Defenſive War, at leaſt for a time, againſt any Nation that ſhall have the boldneſs to attack them. But I do ſay, that no neceſſitous and indigent Nation can make an Offenſive War againſt a wealthy Kingdom or State, unleſs they can make their Enemies Country the Seat of it, and by the Plenty and Riches thereof both ſubſiſt and pay their own Army: Whereas the *Dutch*, through their being *wealthy* by reaſon of *Trade*, have heretofore lived many Years in War without growing weary of it; and tho they have ſeldom made great Acquiſitions, yet they have as ſeldom ſuſtained any conſiderable Loſſes, yea, they have been able by their Money, which is the Product of their *Commerce*, to prevail upon others to aſſiſt them, when the Subverſion of their State has been moſt menaced, and their Country in the greateſt Jeopardy; tho they have alſo (to be reſtored to the free and

quiet

quiet following of their *Traffick*) purchaſed ſometimes their own Peace at their Friends Expence, and have abandoned thoſe *Allies* that came in to ſuccour them.

NOR need I tell you, *Sir*, that *Trade* is like a nice and coy Miſtreſs, which you muſt not only induſtriouſly court to get poſſeſſed of it, but ſedulouſly purſue, and as tenderly cheriſh if you would preſerve and ſecure it: For the *Dangers* inſeparably incident to *Trade*, are of that Variety and Number, that unleſs it be encouraged by *Immunities* from grievous Impoſitions, few will embark in it, and fewer perſevere to follow it. For who would expoſe their whole Fortune and Capital to the Hazards which unavoidably accompany *Navigation* and *Traffick*, if all that thereby accrues to them be, to bear the chiefeſt Burden in the ſupporting the Government, and by heavy *Taxes* upon them to eaſe thoſe from National *Impoſitions*, who either wallow in Plenty and Luxury, through having Eſtates in *Land*, or who ſubſiſt comfortably on *Agriculture* and Mechanick Imploys, without being expoſed to the Dangers or running the Hazards which attend long Voyages and foreign *Commerce*? And as the Inſtances are many and obvious to every one's Obſervations, that is in any degree acquainted with the *World*, or converſant in *Hiſtory*, that as *Trade* has always forſook and abandoned thoſe places where it hath come to be too much loaded and burdened, tho its Reſidence may have antecedently been fixed there, for Ages as well as Years: So it is not unworthy of Remark, that Trade ſeldom, if ever, returned to a Place which it had once forſook; nor has it been found, that they who by grievous *Impoſitions* have at any time drove *Trade* away, could be able to recover it again by any Change of their Conduct, or other Methods which they have fallen upon. And conſidering the many Advantages that arrive to Kingdoms in the Increaſe of *Manufactures* and Riſe of *Rents*, both of *Lands* and *Houſes*, through the Proſperity and Succeſs of *Trade*; it is a wonder that any People, who have but Wit to govern themſelves by *Intereſt*, if they will not by the Meaſures of more refined *Wiſdom* and *Juſtice*, ſhould burden and overload *Trade*, which is the Source and Fountain of ſo many and great *Advantages* to them: nor ſhould there be more needful, both to inform and convince the Nobility and Gentry of the Benefits ariſing by the Protection and Encouragement of

Trade,

Trade, than that within the Compaſs of little more than a Century of Years, in which *Trade* began to augment, the *Value of Lands* in *England* is riſen to a full *Moiety*; and it is as demonſtrable as any Problem in *Euclid*, that were our *Tunnage* and *Poundage* and other Impoſitions on Trade, that ſtarve and cripple it, taken off, or at leaſt abated, both the *Lands* of the Gentry would ſtill riſe *higher* in their *Value*, and the *Manufactures* of the Kingdom would be more *plentifully exported*, and thereupon proportionably *increaſe* and *multiply*: ſo that if *Trade* were more eaſed and privileged from Impoſitions in times of *Peace*, tho Lands might thereby come to be the more loaded; yet ſuch a Method would not only be greatly to the Advantage of the *Kingdom*, but would turn to the Benefit of the *Freeholder* and *Landlord*, in that *Lands* and *Houſes* would thereupon be both *Lett* and *Sold* at ſuch Rates and Values (beyond what they now are) as would be more than an *Equivalent* of ſuch a *Burden*. And would Men allow themſelves to think calmly of this Matter, the *Heritor* at the *Rebound* would find his Intereſt as much in the relieving *Trade* from *Impoſitions* and *Taxes* as the *Merchant* would do *immediately*: But then to continue not only *Burdens* upon *Trade* in time of *War*, but to increaſe them proportionably to the growth of the Charge and Expence that the Kingdom is forced to be at, in the ſupporting and defraying it, is ſo irreconcilable to all the Rules of Wiſdom as well as of Juſtice, that the doing it is a Reproach upon the Underſtandings of a People, as well as a Reflection upon their Equity: For the *Hazards* which *Traders* are then expoſed unto more than other Perſons, and the *Loſſes* which at ſuch a time they muſt unavoidably meet with, in whatſoever they either Export or Import, will be found to affect the *Merchant's* Eſtate and Capital ſo far, that it ought both in Prudence and Juſtice to be allowed to paſs inſtead of his *Quota* to all publick *Taxes*. But alas! ſuch have been the *Ways* and *Means* of raiſing Money for the carrying on the preſent *War*, that the *Merchants* have not only born a great Share in the whole Charge and Expence of it at *home* through *Taxes* impoſed upon *Shipping* as well as upon Merchandiſe, but they have alſo by reaſon of the neglects in protecting *Navigation*, had the Misfortune to defray a great part of the *Enemies* Expence in the War they make upon us, as you may eaſily comprehend, upon conſidering the vaſt Number of

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Ships with their *Cargoes*, which they have taken from us since the Commencement of it; and which (if calculated at the lowest Value) must amount to several Millions Sterling. In a word, the *less* the *Impositions* are upon *Trade*, the *more* Money the *Merchant* has to imploy in it, and to apply to the Enlargement of it; and the more vigorously it is carried on, the further it is enlarged, the more our Manufactures will multiply at home; and all that we can fabrick will be the better transported abroad. And as the *Trade* of *England* is capable of great *Improvements*, and of being far extended beyond what it is yet arrived at, and this both as to the Productions of *Art* and *Nature* at *home*, and as to the enlarging our Commerce in the Commodities of *Foreign* Countries; so nothing has so much discouraged, crippled and narrowed it, as the draining those large Sums and vast Proportions of Money out of the *Merchant's* Stock and Capital, by his paying high Impositions, Customs and Taxes, which without those Burdens upon Trade would have been all applied unto the Increase of his Stock, and imployed in the Enlargement of Commerce and Traffick. Nor would it derogate from the Prudence of our Legislators, if the received Practice and the present Posture of Affairs will not allow them to make this Kingdom a *free Port*; yet at least to imitate the Dutch, (that know so well how to grow strong and opulent) who tho they have little Land to *tax* towards the defraying the Charges of their Government, and who are also by Nature precluded from several other ways and means of raising Money for the Defence of their State, which lie open and are practicable to us; yet even they do with singular Care and in a most special Manner, cover and excuse Trade from all extraordinary and grievous Impositions, and do chuse rather to raise Money for the answering the Necessities and Exigencies of their Government, in a hundred other Methods, than to clog *Traffick*, or to make the *Merchant* uneasy through large and mortifying *Impositions*.

AND, *Sir*, you will readily imagine, that if Trade, in order to the being preserved and enlarged, must be so tenderly cherished and so carefully indulged where it is already established, and has gained the Esteem and Affections of a People; it must then be more amorously Courted and Addressed unto in all the ways that are Charming, in order to give a beginning unto it,

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and fix it a Settlement where it has had little Footing, and ſcarcely been entertained: And the more enticing muſt the means be to allure a People to it, and to make them eſpouſe it with Ardour, where not only the *Genius* and *Inclinations* of a *Nation* have generally ſtood biaſſed another way, but where (thro' being habituated to greater Frugality than their Neighbours) they have for the moſt part ſat down contented with their own home Productions, as being ſufficient both to accommodate all the needful cravings of *Nature*, and to yield Supplies for the common conveniencies of *Life*; or they have only extended their *Trade* to an *intercourſe* with thoſe adjoining Nations, that could both take off thoſe few Superfluities which their Country yieldeth, and might furniſh them with all thoſe Supplies which modern Vanity, Pride and Luxury have rendered as it were neceſſary. And if *Penal* Laws have been found neceſſary to withdraw the Native *Iriſh* from their antient rude Cuſtom of making their Horſes plow and draw by the *Tails*; you will not wonder if *Beneficial* Laws be thought needful to turn the Applications of the *Scots* into another Channel, than that in which moſt of them have hitherto exerciſed their Parts, and imployed their Induſtry: and by how much any Kingdom or State findeth that others have been long embarked in Traffick before them, by ſo much muſt the Encouragement be the greater, and the proſpects of Succeſs and Advantage made the more viſible and morally certain, to obtain their People to ſtart ſo late, and ſo far behind thoſe intereſted in Trade previouſly to them, that they do in a manner ſee the Prize of the Courſe in which they are ingaging in the Poſſeſſion and Enjoyment of others, before they can ſet out and begin. Nor is there any thing more univerſally practiſed by all Nations, and particularly by *England*, than to grant large *Privileges* to the Authors and Inventors of any thing *Natural* or *Artificial* that may be profitable to Mankind, and beneficial to the Community: and various as well as many Inſtances, fall under every Man's Obſervation and View, how that the Projectors and Authors of the leaſt thing that hath ſeemed to have a tendency to publick and National *uſefulneſs*, have had all the Profits that were likely for ſeveral Years to accrue from it, veſted in them in the way of a *Monopoly*, as the Recompence and Reward either of

their Skill or of their Induſtry; nor can any be ignorant, who are converſant either in our *Hiſtory*, or in our *Statute-Book*, what Conceſſions, Privileges and Immunities have been heretofore granted to the *Walloons* and others, to tempt them hither, and by them to get poſſeſſion of, and to *eſtabliſh* thoſe various *Manufactures*, which have been of ſo much Reputation, as well as of Advantage to the Kingdom. Yea, while the *Ingeny*, Vigour and Induſtry of the Natives of *England*, ſpent themſelves heretofore in other Ways, Exerciſes and Applications, than thoſe of *Traffick*; what large Favours and *Immunities* were then granted unto, and beſtowed upon *Foreigners*, to procure them to ſettle a *Staple* of *Commerce* here, and to cultivate *Trade*? For how much ſoever the *Engliſh* have within this laſt Age addicted themſelves to *Trade* and *Navigation*; yet before the middle of Queen *Elizabeth*'s Reign, their Application was not much greater thereunto than that of their Neighbours; and ſo unprovided was this Kingdom at that Time, both of Ships and Mariners, and that no leſs for *Traffick* than for *War*, that the Government was forced to hire the one as well as the other, from the Hanſe-Towns. 'Tis true, that long before, upon the *Burgundians* having procured of *John Duke* of *Brabant* the *Incorporation* of a Company of *Merchant Adventurers*, Anno 1248. our Politick as well as Warlike Prince *Edward* the 3d, found means to allure it hither, and to get it tranſplanted into *England*; where being eſtabliſhed by him with many and great *Privileges*, it was likewiſe afterwards confirmed by moſt of the Kings of *England* that ſucceeded him: But beſides its being fallen in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Time under ſome decline, had it been in its great Vigour, it could not have been able to ſupport, extend and enlarge *Trade* to the Meaſure and Degree which the *Ballance* of *Europe* at that time, and the growth of *Navigation* and *Traffick* in other Nations made neceſſary to be attempted here; which as it occaſioned *Commerce* to be caſt, as it were, into a new Mould, and to put on a different Face from that in which it formerly appeared; ſo it procured thoſe *Encouragements* unto *Trade*, and gained it ſuch *Privileges* as might ſerve to promote its Propagation and Increaſe, to a Proportion that ſhould not only equal that of other Nations, but exceed it. Nor is it improbable but that the Proſpect which all People then had of *England*

land and *Scotland*'s being likely ſoon after to be united under *one Soveraign*, might give great Encouragement to this Kingdom to apply it to *Navigation* and *Commerce* more than it had been accuſtomed to do, and that not only upon the hopes of being delivered from thoſe *Wars* for the future, which had for many Ages been too frequent between theſe *Britiſh* Nations, and conſequently great *Obſtructions* to *Trade*; but 'en that theſe Kingdoms becoming to be ſo far incorporated, as to be under *one Monarch*, *England* ſhould have thence forward little cauſe of Apprehenſion of *War* with any of its *Foreign Neighbours*, and eſpecially with *France*; and that partly by reaſon of the Addition of *Strength*, which this *Conjunction* of the two Nations would give againſt any Enemy, and partly becauſe the *Alliance* and *Friendſhip* between *Scotland* and *France* (which had often rendered the *French* the bolder to make War againſt *England*) would by this *Union* be unavoidably diſſolved. Nor is it needful that I ſhould expatiate in repreſenting, how that when this Nation began to apply it ſelf induſtriouſly and extenſively to *Trade*, all the Methods imaginable of Kindneſs unto, and Care over *Merchants* and *Navigation*, were made uſe of by the Government, to encourage them and cultivate it: For as there was a *Naval Strength* always in readineſs, and (upon every Emergency and needful Occaſion) imployed to protect it, ſo the Impoſitions upon it were extreamly *Moderate*, in compariſon of what (as appears by the *Book* of *Rates*, and the ſeveral *Acts* of *Parliament* which charge *Navigation* and *Trade*, with ſo many *Duties* and *Impoſts*) they are grown up into ſince: For all the *Taxes* then exacted of *Merchants*, were rather little *Recognitions* of their *Dependence* upon the Crown, and ſmall acknowledgments of the Countenance and Defence which they received from the Government, than any *Burdens* and grievous Incumbrances, by which *they* might be diſcouraged, and *Traffick* loaded; ſo that the whole Carriage of thoſe then in Authority towards *Commerce*, and thoſe embarked in it, ſpake an indulgent *Care* towards it and them, and ſuch a tender regard of both, as became the *Infancy* of *Trade*, and the *Difficulties* which *Beginners* were to encounter with: and particularly as to the *Society* that was erected to Trade to the *Eaſt-Indies*, there was all the Wiſdom and Goodneſs exerciſed towards it that might be ſub-

ſervient to the promoting of it; for upon its firſt *Incorporation*, Anno 1599. it had not only many *Immunities* granted unto it, but was *Incorporated* into a *Company* with a Right and Authority veſted in it, of Trading to the *Indies*, preclusive of all their Fellow-Subjects that were not of that *Corporation*. For tho it be inconſiſtent, both with the Wiſdom and the Juſtice of the Government of *England*, and alſo with the Rights and Liberties of the People, to erect all *Traders* into every Place, into *Companies*, excluſive of other *Engliſh Natives* and Freemen, to Traffick thither, where the *Trade* may be *effectually* and advantageouſly carried on by *ſingle Dealers*, or by *voluntary* Aſſociations, ſeeing ſuch *incorporated Societies* would be ſo many *Monopolies*, which are *Nuſances* in a Countrey where the Ends of *Commerce* may be otherwiſe compaſſed and obtained; yet it hath always been the Prudence of the Government, to devolve *Trade* unto ſuch Places upon an Incorporated *Company*, where it could neither be protected nor enlarged, ſave by a *Society* trading and acting on a *Joint Stock*. And as the *Intereſt* of the *Kingdom*, with reſpect to the Quality of the Place, where a *Trade* is to be managed, muſt give rules for the *Method*, and determine the *way* in which it is to be carried on: ſo in that caſe where it would be to the Loſs and Prejudice of the Kingdom, to have a *Trade* laid open to whoſoever will be dealing in it, the *Publick* and *National* Benefit ought to be prefer'd to that of *particular* Perſons. And as we do know how the Trade of *England* to the *Eaſt-Indies*, was in a manner wholly loſt from the Kingdom, during the *Uſurpation* of the *Rump Parliament*, and of *Oliver Cromwell*, by their putting it out of the *Channel* in which it had been managed by an *Incorporated Society*, and leaving to every one that pleaſed to venture upon it: So the *Indulgence* given of late Years to *Interlopers*, has both had fatal Effects upon that Trade, and has not much commended their care of the Nation, who either allowed or connived at it. For as ſingle Traders will be eaſily tempted at ſo great a Diſtance, to commit *Depredations* upon the Natives of thoſe Countries, and thereby provoke them as well to make *Reprizals* upon us, as to renounce all friendly and amicable *Commerce* with us; ſo no *Dealers* ſave in the way of an *Incorporated Company* trading upon a *Joint-Stock*, can erect and maintain *Forts*, eſtabliſh *Factories*, and raiſe, and

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pay that armed *Force* in the Places they have choſen for their *Reſidence* and the Seat of their *Traffick*, as will either diſcourage thoſe *Nations* that *rival* us in *Trade* from *ſupplanting* them, or the *Natives* upon every imagined Offence from *inſulting* them. To which I crave Liberty to add, that every Nation or State in *Europe*, which upon Motives of *Intereſt* have eſtabliſhed a *Society* that might trade to the *Indies*, have at the firſt Erection of ſuch a *Corporation*, granted vaſt *Privileges* unto it for its *Encouragement*; of which the Dutch are a famous and inſtructive Example, who tho they had acquired ſome beginnings of a Trade thither by the Induſtry of private and particular Dealers, yet that wiſe People being ſenſible that it could neither be much enlarged, nor long preſerved in that Method of Trade, they thereupon in the Year 1602, gave Eſtabliſhment to a *Company* that might trade thither, *excluſive* of all other of their own *Subjects*; and for their *Encouragement* (notwithſtanding all the *Neceſſities* of the State at that time) *excuſed* them from all *Taxes* and *Impoſitions* upon that *Trade*, for the ſpace of 21 Years, and only obliged them, in way of an acknowledgment of their Dependence upon the *States General*, to pay in the whole, within the Compaſs of the firſt *ten* Years, the Sum of *Five and twenty thouſand Florins*, which amounted to little more than 2000 *l. Sterling*; and was rather a *Recognition* of whom they held their right of Trading thither, than a *Burden* upon that Traffick. So that through the Privileges and Immunities which were granted unto them then, moſt whereof have been ſtill continued to them ſince, they are become the moſt opulent and powerful *Trading Society* of the World, and the chief Pillar of the *Dutch* State; and tho they be but in the quality of *Subjects* at Home, they are great *Soveraigns* in the *Indies*, and not only give Laws to many *Eaſtern* Princes, but ingroſs from *Europeans* what parts of the *Indian Traffick* they pleaſe. And if ſuch *Encouragements* have been thought needful towards the giving a beginning and an increaſe to an *Eaſt-India Trade*, when there were none, or at leaſt very few of thoſe *Difficulties* and *Dangers* to be conflicted with, from *Rival* Nations, that are now unavoidably to be encountered; and if ſuch *Immunities* were fit to be granted at a Seaſon when the *Trade* was not *foreſtalled*, preoccupied, nor previouſly poſſeſſed to any conſiderable De-

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gree by other Europeans; it is eaſy to imagine how indiſpenſibly neceſſary it is for thoſe that would now begin a Trade thither, to give all the *Encouragements* to it that are under the Power, and within the Circle of a Government and Nation to grant. And experience in our Neighbouring Kingdoms may teach us, how weak and ineffectual the Conceſſion of the greateſt *Privileges* is towards the eſtabliſhing ſuch a *Trade* to the *Indies*, as may anſwer the Pains and Coſt in endeavouring it, and bringing it to turn to ſuch an account, as may bear proportion to the *Expence*, as well as to the *Induſtry* and *Hazards* of attempting it, after ſo wealthy and potent Nations as *England* and *Holland* have gotten antecedent Poſſeſſion, and will endeavour to ingroſs that *Trade* to the *Excluſion* of all others: For not only all the large *Privileges* and *Immunities* granted by the *King* of *Denmark* and the *Elector* of *Brandenburgh*, for the raiſing and promoting of an *Eaſt-India* Trade, have proved inſignificant in advancing the End and Deſign which they propoſed, at leaſt, not to ſuch a Degree as may turn to their own Honour, and the Profit of their reſpective Countries; but even thoſe vaſt *Encouragements* given by the great Monarch of *France*, to raiſe the *Genius* and quicken the *Induſtry* of his People to the beginning and carrying on of an *Indian* Trade, have proved little better than abortive: So that inſtead of blaming the *Scots* for what we eſteem extravagant Conceſſions, in order to their *founding* a *Trade* to the *Eaſt-Indies*, all thoſe *Indulgences* may be rather look'd upon as means much below, and diſproportioned to what they are aiming at: And they who will judg of things impartially, will rather judg them to have been *deficient* than *exceſſive* in the *Privileges* they have granted; for as ſome other beſides thoſe mentioned in the *Act*, could not eſcape falling under their Thoughts and View, ſo the granting them would have been Wiſe and Juſt in it ſelf, and congruous to the Undertaking which they would give Being unto. However, as the offering and granting *leſs* would have left them under an imputation of *Folly* and *Weakneſs*, in propoſing to compaſs *mighty* Ends by *feeble* Means; ſo they will be more fortunate than others have been, if the *Succeſs* upon thoſe *Encouragements* do either anſwer the *Wiſhes* they have, or the *Hopes* they entertain.

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AND, *Sir*, inſtead of its giving any juſt Occaſion of Surprize, that the *Parliament* of *Scotland* ſhould endeavour at laſt to excite their People to a Share in *Trade*, ſomewhat proportionable to what other Nations have attained unto, it is rather matter of Aſtoniſhment and Wonder that their Nobility, Gentry and Burgeſſes who conſtitute their *Senate*, being generally Men of equal Wit with thoſe of the like Qualities in neighbouring Countries, and being alſo moſt of them ſo well acquainted with the World, as to underſtand the Advantages which redound to Kingdoms by *Traffick*; and that the Figure which one Nation maketh above another, proceedeth, *cæteris paribus*, from *Wealth*, which is the Reſult and Product of *Trade*; they ſhould have ſo long omitted the giving thoſe *Encouragements* to it, which they might, and which other Nations have done. For tho the Biaſs of their People ſeems generally to lie another way, as I have already ſaid; yet that is meerly the effect of *Cuſtom* and not of *Nature*: and as it would not have been difficult at any time heretofore to have diverted and turned their Inclination and Humour from *Souldiery* to *Commerce*; ſo it is not to be doubted, but that upon their being once brought to apply unto it, they would be found as ingenious and diligent in *Trade*, as they have had the Character to be skilful and brave in *War*; nor are they worſe qualified by their *Indian* and *African* Traffick than their Neighbours are: but if any will in that pretend to an Advantage above another, it indiſputably falls to the Lot of the *Scots*, in that they have neither long and dangerous *Channels* to paſs, before they arrive at their *Ports* from an *Indian* or *African* Voyage; nor yet a tedious and perillous *Courſe* to run about the North of *Ireland* and *Scotland*, but that they may immediately out of the *Ocean* enter into ſafe and convenient *Harbours*. And then as for convenient Numbers of *Men* fit to be imployed in *Navigation*, they are by reaſon of the Populacy of their Country, anſwerable to the Dimenſions of it; and that there are proportionably more of them of the inferiour Rank, than are elſewhere, as well furniſhed with *Perſons* capable to be *Mariners*, as any Country whatſoever, and thoſe generally, who through the Strength of their *Conſtitution* and the Hardineſs and Frugality of their *Education*, are not only as able as any to undergo long Voyages, with all the Incidents of Heat, Cold,

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and ſometimes ſcarcity of Proviſions for Subſiſtence, that do attend them; and who, through an Obedience they are bred to from their Youth, are not ſo liable to *mutiny* as ſome others may be, but who can (equally with, if not better than moſt) endure Foreign *Climates*, and with leſs deſpondency of Mind, and feebleneſs of Body, encounter thoſe Diſeaſes which Strangers are obnoxious unto, upon their firſt Arrival in *Africa* and the *Eaſt-Indies*. So that conſidering all the natural *Advantages* which the *Scots* have to encourage their Application to *Trade*, it would ſtrangely reflect upon the Wiſdom of the *Parliament* of that *Kingdom*, and greatly detract from the Love which they ought to bear to their Country, and from the Care as well as Zeal which they ought to expreſs for the *Honour* and *Proſperity* of it, in their having ſo long neglected to eſtabliſh, cultivate and promote *Trade* with a greater Vigour, and more extenſively than they have done, were there not ſome *Reaſons* (which tho they may already lie under the View of a Perſon of your Penetration, I ſhall nevertheleſs for the ſake of others repreſent them unto you) that may ſerve in ſome meaſure to *excuſe*, though poſſibly they may not wholly *juſtify* their Conduct in this matter. Whereof take this for the firſt; namely, That it is not long ſince the *African* and *Eaſt-India* Trades grew into that Reputation in *Europe* of *Profitableneſs*, or came ſo to flouriſh through the *Induſtry* of theſe *Northern* Nations, as to raiſe Emulation in their Neighbours of obtaining a Share in them: For as 'tis within leſs than *thirty* or *forty* Years, that this part of the World grew ſo fond of many of the Productions of thoſe Places, or that trading *Societies* to them being eſtabliſhed, had outwreſtled and conquered the *Difficulties* that attend *Beginnings* of that kind, or had brought them to anſwer the *Dangers* and *Expence*, which thoſe *Companies* were forced to be at, in laying the Foundations of their *Traffick* thither, and in rendring it firſt *ſafe* there, and then advancing it to be *gainful* and *profitable* here: So that it is no wonder if *Scotland* (that is a Kingdom inferiour to *England* in *Power* and *Opulency*) ſhould ſuſpend and delay Attempts of endeavouring to ſettle a *Commerce* thither, until they ſhould ſee what ſucceſs would enſue upon the Care and Induſtry of thoſe *Engliſh Companies*, which were erected for the Cultivation and Management of thoſe *two* reſpective *Trades*. Nor did the Conduct

duct of *Scotland* in this matter differ much from the Behaviour of other Kingdoms, and particularly of *France*, with which *Scotland* pretends not to compare it ſelf in largeneſs of Territories, numbers of People, or greatneſs of Treaſure: And the adverſe Fortune which the *Engliſh* long wreſtled with, with the Difficulties and Loſſes which they encountered to the weakning, if not almoſt ruining of the *Undertakers*, before they could bring the *Trade* to *India*, to be either *profitable* to themſelves and the Kingdom, or *honourable* to the Government, might well diſcourage the *Scots* from being forward in embarking in a Courſe of Traffick; under the Diſcouragements and Arduouſneſs whereof their richer and more powerful Neighbours were ready to ſuccumb; whereas having now ſeen, that the eſtabliſhing and carrying on of that *Trade* both with *Credit* and vaſt *Profit*, is not only practicable, but that by reaſon of the Humour that is now grown predominant in *Europe*, of preferring the Productions of thoſe Countries to any of the *Fruits* of *Nature*, or the *Manufactures* of *Art*, which Nations nearer home do afford, the *Money* of thoſe States and Kingdoms, who are not immediately intereſted in that *Trade*, is drawn away from them, and comes into the Poſſeſſion of thoſe, who deal in the *Original* importing of the Commodities of the *Eaſt-Indies*, firſt into their own Countries, and then in vending them to other Nations: and the *Scots* being as ready to run into the Faſhion of the World as other Nations about them are, tho they cannot ſpare ſo much Money to be drawn out of their Country, as the gratifying their Vanity in Expences of that kind will require; have therefore found it neceſſary to erect an *Eaſt-India* Company, both for ſupplying themſelves, and thereby keeping their Money at home, and alſo to export and vend abroad to others, and by that means to draw *Bullion* and *Caſh* into the Kingdom from thoſe Countries, where their *Indian* Goods come to be diſpoſed. And they have the more reaſon to to fall upon all the *Methods*, and to uſe all the *Ways* they can to increaſe their *Coin*, ſeeing neither *Nations* nor *Perſons* are now valued, as antiently they were, by their *Ingeny*, *Fortitude* and moral *Worth*, but according to their *Wealth*, and the Proportion of *Silver* that they weigh at, in the Scale of *Quantity*; the Scarcity whereof in *Scotland*, through want of *Trade* (which is the Source and Fountain of its being any where *plentiful*) has

given occaſion to ſome of their opulent Neighbours (whom *Wealth* hath made *haughty* and *diſdainful*) to faſten upon them the Character of beggarly *Scots*; and the which, as it appears by their neglect of *Trade*, they have hitherto born with a Tameneſs, as if they were not aſhamed of the Reproach. And truly were the *Eſtimate* of Kingdoms and Perſons made now, as formerly it was wont to be, and as it really ought, *Poverty* (where it is compenſated by true intrinſick *Moral* and *Intellectual* Worth) is not ſuch an *Ignominy* as it is meant, both by thoſe that charge it upon others, and as it is commonly taken by them, upon whom it is faſtned; ſeeing as there may be found *Kingdoms* that are *poor* and indigent in *Coin*, which nevertheleſs are *valorous*, *noble* and *generous*; and *Nations* (on the contrary) vaſtly *rich*, who can never emerge from being *Ruſtick* and *Boorish*; ſo there is nothing more apparent, tho leſs acknowledged, than that ſome *Perſons* with a very light *Purſe* may be *genteel*, *meritorious* and *honourable*, while others of *twenty* and *forty thouſand Pound* Capital, do deſerve to be as much reckoned in the Number of the *Mob*, as they who ſell *Brooms*, or cry *Small Coal*. But then, *Sir*, allow me to add in the ſecond place, that the *Scots* were for many Years, after the *Engliſh* and they came under *One Soveraign*, treated with that Equality and Indulgence, with reference to the *mutual Traffick* of the *Kingdoms*, or at leaſt with that Reſpect and Fairneſs, that the *Scots* had not that Cauſe and Occaſion adminiſtred unto them, of eſtabliſhing and purſuing *Trade* upon a ſeparate and diſtinct *Bottom* of their own, as they have had for theſe ſeveral late Years, and ſtill have; in that upon the *two* Nations firſt coming to be the *Subjects* of *one* and the ſame *King*, beſides the Proſpect which the *Scots* had, and the Hopes that were given them, that the *two Kingdoms* ſhould be ſo cemented and united, as to become equally intereſted and veſted in the ſame *civil* and *political* Liberties, Rights and Privileges, they had in the mean time immediately granted unto them (by the Conceſſion and Adjuſtment of the *Commiſſioners* of both Nations, who ſoon after King *James* the *Firſt* had attained to the Crown of *England*, were called and authorized to meet and ſit about the debating and perfecting a compleat *Union* between the *two* Kingdoms) that the *Scots* ſhould be under *no Reſtrictions* in matter of *Trade* more than the *Engliſh* were, ſave that they

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were to ſtand prohibited from the Exportation of *Wool*, and a few other *Engliſh* Productions. And as this *Privilege* was not envied, or denied *them* by the *Engliſh* for many Years: So the *Scots* had no reaſon all that while of complaining, that they were unkindly or unequally dealt with, or of falling under the Temptations of erecting Trading *Societies*, with larger *Immunities* than were granted in *England*. But on the contrary, they lay under all the friendly Obligations imaginable of acquieſcing in that Share and Proportion of *Traffick*, that was ſo chearfully allowed them. Nor was the *Trade* of *England* to the *Eaſt-Indies*, and to the *American* Plantations, and much leſs to *Affrick*, (which have ſince proved the Occaſion of the *Engliſh* entering upon other *Meaſures* of *Commerce*, and of laying thoſe *Reſtraints* and Inhibitions upon the *Scots* in the Matter of *Trade*, that were not formerly dreamed of) arrived at that Maturity and Perfection, as to be the *Mine* of *Wealth* for the enriching thoſe that were licenſed to purſue it; and by Conſequence it would create no great Emulations, and much leſs Envy or Diſcord between the Kingdoms about being intereſted in it. And as there was not any conſiderable Alterations made, from what I have mentioned, through the Conduct of the *Engliſh* towards the *Scots* in the Buſineſs of *Trade*, during the Reigns of *James* I. and *Charles* I. So every one knows that theſe *Privileges*, during the Adminiſtration of the *Parliament* 1641, and of *Oliver Cromwell's* Uſurpation, were rather *enlarged* towards the *Scots* Nation, than any ways *diminiſhed* and *abridged*. So that except the Diverſion given to the *Scots* from following *Trade* with Application, which the *War* begot, that *Scotland* was for ſeveral Years engaged in, ſometimes for, and ſometimes againſt *England*, they had no Cauſe given them of Offence or Complaint, by reaſon of thoſe Preclusions, Reſtrictions and Hardſhips which have been put upon them in Matter of *Trade* ſince the Reſtauration 1660. And I am ſorry to ſay it, conſidering that they had both ſuffered ſo much for King *Charles*, and cooperated with General *Monk*, to the Degree they did, towards his Reeſtabliſhment upon his Thrones, that they were ſoon after not only put out and debarred from all the *Privileges* in *Traffick*, which they had formerly enjoyed; but were in all Particulars, that reſpect *Trade*, put into the perfect State and Condition of *Aliens*; tho

the doing ſo, was directly repugnant to all the *Laws* and judged *Caſes*, relative to the *Poſtnati*. For by ſeveral *Acts* of the *Parliaments* of *England* immediately, or ſoon after the Reſtauration, particularly by that 12 *Car.* 2. ſtiled *An Act for the encouraging and increaſing Shipping and Navigation*; and by another, 15 *Car.* 2. called, *An Act for the Encouragement of Trade*; the *Scots* are not only treated diſtinguiſhingly worſe than any other of the Subjects of the King of *Great Britain*, but they are placed in the ſame Circumſtances as to *Traffick*, with *French* and *Hollanders*; which as the *Scots* think, could be deſigned for no other End, than the putting them into a worſe Condition, than that both of a *Province*, and a *Conquered* People, which *Ireland* is 5, to which they grant the Privileges which they refuſe to *Scotland*. You will not thereupon be amazed, or think it ſtrange, if the *Scots* have been endeavouring all along ſince, to vindicate themſelves from that *Diſhonour*, as well as to relieve themſelves from that *Loſs* and Damage, by ſettling their Nation on a *Baſis* and Foot of *Trade*, that may not leave them obnoxious to be ſo eaſily contemned as they have been, nor continue them expoſed to thoſe *Dependencies* upon the *Grace* and Favour of the *Engliſh*, which are meerly *precarious*, and may be withdrawn and denied when they pleaſe.

Which leads me to the third Thing which I am to lay before you, on the Head that I am upon, concerning the *Neglect* which the *Scots* ſeem guilty of, in their failing to countenance and advance *Trade*; namely, that the *Act* of the late *Seſſion* of the Parliament of *Scotland*, for the Erecting an *Eaſt-India* and *African* Company, is not the *firſt*, ſince the Year 1660, (in which the Foundation of their being diſabled and crippled in *Traffick* was laid) that they have paſſed and enacted with large *Immunities*, for the ſettling, encouraging and promoting Trade in their Country. For beſides the *Act for encouraging a Foreign Trade*, made by the preſent Parliament of *Scotland*, Anno 1693, (wherein there are divers *Conceſſions* for the raiſing and quickning the *Genius* of the Kingdom, to an *Outlandiſh* Traffick) and which was only deſigned to be preparatory and introductive to this *latter* Act, and to pave the way for it, there were divers *other* Acts, granting great *Liberties* and *Immunities*, enacted in the firſt Parliament of *Charles* II. immediately after the many ſevere *Preciſi-*

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ſions and *Reſtrictions* laid upon the *Scots* by the Parliament of *England*, for debarring them from all ſhare in the Trade, which the *Engliſh* drive either with *Foreigners*, or with the *American* Plantations. Among which other Acts and Statutes of the *Scots* Nation ſubſervient hereunto, that Act is in a ſpecial manner worthy of Remark, which they paſt in the Year 1661, for *Fiſhings, and for promoting of the ſame*; in which, as the *Privileges* and *Immunities* vouchſafed by it, are both many and very conſiderable; ſo they were all granted and ordained to continue for ever: Whereas the *Conceſſions* of the late *Act*, which do make ſo much noiſe in World, are confined to a certain Term of Years, ſome of them being limited to *Ten*, and thoſe of the longeſt Duration circumſcribed to *One* and *Twenty*. And the Reaſons why that *Act* produced not better Effects, nor more ſignally anſwered the End it was deſigned for, are ſo obvious, that they need not be inſiſted upon, but only to be hinted at, namely, that the ſaid *Act* was not ſo much deſigned to be put in execution, as it was projected to try what could be procured in behalf of *Scotland*, from the Grace and Favour of our Princes, and thereby to gain a *Precedent* of their Mercy and Juſtice, in order to ſomething that might be more conducible in Point of *Trade*, to the Honour and Intereſt of that Kingdom. To which may be added, that it was enacted rather to alarm *England*, and to reduce the *Engliſh* from the unkind and ſevere Methods they were upon towards *Scotland*, than that any firm Reſolutions were taken by the *Scots* for the purſuing of it. I may likewiſe ſubjoin, That a main Reaſon of its failing in the Execution, was the Scarcity of Money then in *Scotland*, to ſupport and promote it, to the Degree that was neceſſary againſt our *Holland* Rivals; and the not inviting *Foreigners* to have a Portion in the *Profit*, upon their bearing a Share in the *Expence*. Nor in the 4th place is it improbable but that our Opulent Neighbours the *Dutch*, who do in a manner wholly ſubſiſt, as well as gain ſo much by *fiſhing* on our *Seas*, might bribe ſome one or more great Men, imploy'd in the Head of that Concern, ſecretly to ſupplant, and clandeſtinely to overthrow it. And to conclude this *Paragraph*, it may be farther added, That as the *Genius* of the *Nation* was not ſo much excited towards *Trade* then, as it is now: So the Buſineſs of *Piſhery* was not a

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Game, that a People otherwiſe habituated, could be gained ſo eaſily to fly at, nor a *Quarry* they would be prevailed upon ſo induſtriouſly to dig in, as a *Trade* to the *Indies* and *Africa* is; the proſecution whereof will both bring more Reputation and Gain, than the catching of *Herring* and *Cod* could be ſuppoſed, either by Undertakers, Merchants, or Mariners to do.

But ſuffer me, *Sir*, to add, That upon the unequal *Terms* which *England* and *Scotland* ſtand together, in matter of *Traffick*, it were better for *Scotland* that the *two* Nations ſhould be under *diſtinct* Kings, as they are *diſtinct* Kingdoms, than that under *one* and *the ſame* Soveraign their Intereſts in point of *Commerce*, ſhould be made ſo inconſiſtent with, and repugnant to one another, as the *Engliſh* will have them to be. For were *Scotland* a Nation ſubdued by the People of *England*, it were neither prudent nor ſafe for them, to treat the *Scots* with the Rigour and Severity which they do, by excluding them from all other Share in the *Commerce* of *England*, or with it, ſave what they do in a manner allow to all ſorts of *Aliens* and Foreigners. Nor is it unworthy of Remark, that the *Romans* of old carried for the moſt part better, and behaved themſelves both more generouſly and gently to thoſe States and Nations which they conquered, than the *Engliſh* are willing to do to the Kingdom of *Scotland*; which beſides its being under the ſame King as they are, is as *free* a Nation as *England* it ſelf, and altogether *independent* upon it. For whenſoever the *Romans* ſubdued any People, unleſs they were ſuch as had often revolted from, and rebelled againſt them, they not only left them in the enjoiment of all the *Rights* and *Liberties* which they had poſſeſſed before, but they both commonly enlarged, and increaſed them; and many times admitted thoſe they had ſubdued, to a Share and Participation of all the Privileges of *Rome*, and of the Roman *Republick*. And the more tenacious they found any People to be of their *Liberty*, and the greater Eſtimate they obſerved them to ſet upon it, the more *Favour* and *Honour* they judged that People worthy of. Whereof tho it were very eaſy to give a multitude of Examples, yet for brevity's ſake, I ſhall aſſign only but one Inſtance, which is that of their dealing with the *Privernates*, whom having upon a Revolt again ſubdued, and having brought ſome of them into the Senate-Houſe, to receive

ceive and hear their Deſtiny; they asked of them in what manner they would keep Peace with the Romans for the future, in Caſe they ſhould forgive them? And being (as *Livy* tells us) anſwered, *Si bonam dederitis, fidam & perpetuam; ſi malam, haud diuturnam:* That, *If the Terms were good, they would perpetually obſerve it; but if they ſhould be bad, they would in that caſe keep it no longer than they ſhould find themſelves in a Condition with ſecurity to break it.* With which Reply, ſome of the wiſeſt of the *Roman Senators* were ſo raviſhed, as well as pleaſed, That they cried out, *Viri, & liberi, vocem auditam eſſe; nec ullum populum, aut hominem in ea conditione, cujus eum pœniteat, diutius quam neceſſe ſit, manſurum.* That *they had heard the Language of a brave People, and juſt Valuers of Freedom; adding, that no Nation, or particular Perſon would be willing to remain longer in any State or Condition that was diſguſtful to them, than until they were able to reſcue and deliver themſelves.* And if this was the Opinion of the wiſe *Romans*, in reference to a People whom they had ſubdued; can any that are Maſters of common Senſe imagine, and believe that a *free*, *unconquered*, and *independent* People will be contented to be depreſſed by a neighbouring Nation, without ſeeking to relieve themſelves in all the juſt and lawful Methods that lie within their Circle? To which I might add, that there are many and fatal Examples of the *Diſcords* that have ariſen between *Nations* under the ſame *Monarch*, when the *one* of them has endeavoured to ingroſs and monopolize either the *foreign*, or the *home Trade* of that Sovereign's Dominions, and to preclude the reſt from having a due and equal Share in it; witneſs the *Revolt* of *Portugal* from the Crown of *Spain*, becauſe the *Caſtilians* debarred them from all *Share* in their *Trade* to the *Weſt-Indies*. For that was the principal Reaſon (tho there were likewiſe ſome others of a different kind) why the *Portuguiſe* ſtruck off the Government of the King of *Spain*, and ſet up the Duke of *Braganza* to be their King. Nay, I might alſo ſubjoin how that it hath often come to paſs, that through a Nation's precluding even *foreign* States and Kingdoms, from a *Share* in *Traffick* to its own *peculiar Plantations*, there hath been formed, as it were, an univerſal Conſpiracy of all thoſe Nations, that have been thus ſhut out and debarred, either for the wreſting of that Trade from it, or for making it

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unprofitable and useless to it. The *first* whereof is verified in the *Portuguise*, who are in a manner wholly beaten out of their vast *East-India* Trade, through the Provocation they gave to other Nations by their striving to ingross it. And as to the *latter*, the *Spaniards* are now sunk under the Experience of it, in relation to their Traffick to their own *West-Indies*; whose Trade thither, instead of continuing to be *beneficial* to them, is turned and improved to their *Prejudice*, by those whom they excluded from all Participation in it. How much less then will *free* and *independent* Nations patiently endure, that one or two Kingdoms or States should *monopolize* to themselves *all* the *Trade* to *Africa*, *India* and *America*; as likewise in effect to several Places of *Europe*? Yea should the *Scots* tamely acquiesce in this, all they would gain by their being under *one* and the same *Monarch* with the *English*, would be to become involved in all the foreign Wars and Troubles, in which the *English* may be at any time ingaged; but to have little or no Share in the Blessings and Benefits of *its* Prosperity and Peace. And seeing most of the *Trade* of *Scotland* lieth with neighbouring Nations, and especially those which *England* hath oftnest Provocation to quarrel with; and the *Scots* driving very little *Traffick* with Countries far remote; it consequently follows that upon the Commencement of a War with those adjacent States and Kingdoms, the *Scots* do become in a manner, shut out from, and deprived of all *foreign* Trade; while in the mean time the *English* do continue to carry on a vast and Beneficial *Trade* to *Turky*, *Africk* and the *East-Indies*, as well as to and from their own *American Plantations*. Of which, as the Kingdom of *Scotland* has had oftner than once the woful Experience, upon any Rupture that hath hapned between the *Crown* of *England* and the *States* of *Holland*, with whom, as most of the *Scots Trade* lieth, both as to the *Exportation* of their Superfluities, and the *Importation* of what they want and need; so the most of their *Traffick* hath in those Cases, been wholly interrupted and in a manner entirely ceased; while at the same time the *English* have kept up a large and *beneficial Trade* to other places, in which the *Scots* are by several *English Acts* of Parliament debarred and precluded from all dealing. Yea the present War with *France* doth, *cæteris paribus*, more affect *Scotland*, in point of *Traffick*, than it doth *England*; because as those Productions

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and Commodities which the *Scots* uſed to export thither, muſt neceſſarily lie upon their hands, through their having no other Place, to which to carry them; ſo they muſt be contented to want thoſe *French* Goods which they were accuſtomed to bring home in Lieu and Exchange of their own; while in the *interim* the *Engliſh* make a ſhift both to vend their Productions elſewhere, and to ſupply themſelves in other Places, with what may anſwer thoſe Commodities they uſed to import from *France*. To which may be added, that if *Scotland* remain not only under thoſe Excluſions, Limitations and Reſtrictions in matter of *Trade*, to which it is ſtak'd down and confined by the *Acts* of the Parliament of *England*, for *the encouraging and encreaſing of Shipping and Navigation*, and for *the Encouragement of Trade*, and againſt *the Importation of foreign Cattel*; but be withal diſcouraged, envied, depreſſed and counteracted, when (to prevent the Violation of, and out of reſpect to thoſe *Engliſh Acts*) they apply themſelves to a new Method and Courſe of *Traffick*, and endeavour to ſettle themſelves on another *Baſis* and Bottom of *Trade* than they were formerly accuſtomed to; I ſay (if theſe be the Circumſtances they muſt abide under) the *Scots* inſtead of being *Gainers*, are great *Loſers* by the *two* Kingdoms coming to be *united* under *one* Soveraign. In reference whereunto, tho I could aſſign *ſeveral* Particulars, wherein they are thereby come to be endamaged; yet I ſhall only give an Inſtance in one; namely, that by their *Incorporation* with *England* under *one* and the ſame King, their antient, long and firm *Alliance* with *France* is entirely *diſſolved*, iſſued and come to a final Period: Which as it had been many times of ſingular advantage both to *France* and *Scotland*; ſo it was of great Profit, as well as Honour to the *Scots*, through the many ſignal Privileges ariſing from that Confederacy, which the *Scots*, in Contradiſtinction from all *other* Nations, peculiarly enjoy'd, but are now totally loſt to them. Upon which, *Sir*, it were not difficult to make thoſe juſt and natural Reflections, which would ſhew that the preſent Conduct of the Kingdom of *England* towards *Scotland*, is not (if we will take the Opinion of the *Scots*) ſo temperate, prudent and diſcreet, as might be expected from a People that are ſo grateful, generous and wiſe, as the *Engliſh* have been always charactered to be. But to prevent giving Offence, I ſhall ſuperſede and wave them all, and ſatisfy my ſelf,

in that I have by the bare mention of the laſt Particular, ſtarted Matter worthy of the matureſt Thoughts of thoſe of the greateſt Penetration, either *in* our *Senate* or *out* of it. And therefore I ſhall only, on this *Topick* of Diſcourſe, further ſubjoin, that upon the *Terms* on which the *Scots* ſtand, with relation to all the *beneficial Trade* in which the *Engliſh* are concerned, they are not only in *as bad*, but in a *worſe* Condition than the Subjects of any *foreign* Prince are; becauſe that as they of a *foreign* Kingdom or State, may for and upon their being *excluded* from *Trading* into the *Engliſh American* Plantations, &c. make *Repriſals* upon the *Engliſh*, in debarring them from the Liberty and Benefit of *Traffick* to ſuch Places, as are under the Power and Juriſdiction of thoſe reſpective Kingdoms and States; and from and with which they drive and purſue their moſt uſeful and enriching *Commerce*; ſo the Subjects of foreign Princes and States are through the alone Countenance, Conceſſion and Authority of their own proper and reſpective Soveraigns, always at liberty to erect and eſtabliſh what *Trade* they pleaſe, to Places either *unpreoccupied*, or where *freedom* of Commerce is allowed promiſcuouſly, to thoſe of all Countries that ſhall think fit to deal with them: Wherein as *Foreigners* fall not under the Controul of the *Engliſh*, nor are diſcouraged by their Menaces; ſo in reference to thoſe Princes and Rulers, under whom thoſe Foreigners live, there is no room to make impreſſion upon them, to withdraw from countenancing their own People, by the little *Arts* and the various means of *Influence* which the *Engliſh* are in a Condition to uſe, and are ſuppoſed ſometimes to practiſe, for diverting the *Kings of Great Britain* from giving that equal Encouragement to the *Scots*, in matter of *Trade*, which the People of *England* think they have a Right both to demand and to expect, and which (through the *Favour* of the *Common Soveraigns* of both Nations) has been diſtinctively vouchſafed them. Which leads me to the next thing that I do crave the liberty to lay impartially before you.

Which is, that the *Kingdom* of *Scotland* is as much a free and independent *Kingdom* as the *Kingdom* of *England* is. That it is neither a *Subdued* nor a *Tributary* Nation, nor in the quality of a *Province*, peopled by a *Swarm* and *Colony* from hence. For tho it may and doth acknowledg *England* to be a more large, more populous,

populous, opulent and powerful Kingdom than it ſelf, yet it is far from owning any Subjection or Inferiority to it. For as to all the mutual Duties and Offices, which may only argue the Eſteem and Reſpect which one *Independent* Nation yieldeth to another; theſe it both confeſſeth to be due, and is ready to pay unto *England*: But to receive Laws from it, or yield an Obedience to its Authority, it neither ought to do it, nor will. And of how near Affinity and Alliance ſoever the two Kingdoms may be to one another, with reſpect to Identity of Language, Similitude of Manners, Analogy of Cuſtoms, and Agreeableneſs of Eſſential Rights and Liberties, and by reaſon of their being under one and the ſame King: Yet they do nevertheleſs preſerve and maintain diſtinct and different *Juriſdictions* and Authorities, have ſeparate and *independent Parliaments*, and are governed by their own proper, peculiar and reſpective Laws, as if they were the Subjects of ſeveral Kings, and each of them ruled by a *diſtinct* Monarch. Nor are the *Parliaments* of *Scotland* leſs the *Repreſentatives* of that *Kingdom* and People, or under leſs Obligations of conſulting for, and promoting the *Welfare* and Proſperity of their Country, than the *Parliaments* of *England* are. Neither can the *latter* comptrol or ſuperſede the *Acts* of the *former*, more than the *former* can the Acts of the *latter*: For it is not with the Parliament of *Scotland*, as it is with that of *Ireland*; in that the Iriſh Parliament have not ſo much as a *Conſultative* Power about a *Bill*, and much leſs are they cloth'd with a *Right* and *Authority* ſo far to paſs it, as to offer it prepared and agreed upon for the Royal Aſſent, unleſs it hath previouſly received the Approbation of the *Privy Council* of *England*, and hath been tranſmitted thither, under the Stamp and Impreſſion of the *Broad-Seal* of *England*, granting them *Liberty* and *Permiſſion* ſo to do: Whereas the *Parliament* of *Scotland* hath both a full and plenary, as well as the ſole Right of introducing, moulding, preparing and paſſing whatſoever *Bills* it judges to be ſubſervient to the King's Honour, adapted to the preſervation of the Publick Peace, and conducible to the advancing the Trade and Proſperity of that Kingdom, without being obliged to have the leaſt antecedent regard to what Opinion the Privy Council, or the Kingdom of *England*, either in its Great *Senate*, or in its Inferiour *Courts*, may have of thoſe

Bills which the *Scots* bring in, debate and vote in order to their being *enacted* into *Laws*. Nor is the King of *Great Britain* under leſs Obligation, both by the Duty of his High and Sovereign Station, and by his Regal Oath, to ſeek and promote the Good and Welfare of *Scotland*, than he is bound by the like Ties, to contrive and purſue the Proſperity and Happineſs of *England*. And as *England* doth not allow it to fall within the Circle and Verge of the Royal Authority to ſuperſede, vacate and diſpenſe with *Laws* once *enacted*: So the *Scots* do no leſs diſclaim ſuch a *Prerogative* in the *Soveraign*, eſpecially with reſpect to *beneficial* Laws, and ſuch as are of a *civil* and *political* Nature: Yea, they have as much blamed and withſtood all Pretenſions of their Monarchs, of *diſpenſing* with *Laws* that are *penal*, and about *Religious* and *Eccleſiaſtical* Matters, as the *Engliſh* themſelves have done; tho poſſibly they have both withſtood that Claim of their Kings, as much to their own *Damage*, and the Prejudice of their true *Intereſts*, as to the *Reſtraint* upon, and *Diminution* of the *Regal Prerogative*. And then as for that Right, commonly granted to be reſident in the Kings of *Great Britain*, and to be an Incident inſeparable from the Soveraignty, of putting a *Negative* (whenſoever they judg it neceſſary) on *Parliamentary Bills*, it is the ſame in whoſoever is King of theſe two Kingdoms, in reference to *England*, that it is to *Scotland*. And whatſoever *Limitations* are conceived by the *Engliſh* to lie upon the *Prerogative* of our *Monarchs*, as to their giving a *Negative* to *Bills* of *Right*, and ſuch as are of a *National Utility*, the *Scots* do plead the ſame *Reſtrictions* to be upon the *Soveraign* Power, in reference to *Bills*, claiming either the Confirmation of antient Legal *Privileges*, or containing and making Proviſion of ſuch greater or leſſer *National Benefits*, which (without extream Prejudice to their publick and general Intereſt) they cannot be without, nor account themſelves either Happy or Eaſy, through the want of their paſſing into *Laws*. So that, *Sir*, this being the Nature, Frame and Conſtitution of the *Government* of *Scotland*, and a true and juſt Account of the Juriſdiction, Power and Authority of the *Parliaments* of that *Kingdom*; I do not ſee why the *Scots* (while they do nothing that interferes with their *Allegiance* to the *King*, or that doth lie in the leaſt repugnancy to the *two* Kingdoms remaining *united* under

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one Monarch, or that importeth ſo much as *Shadow* of *Hoſtility* againſt *England*) may not conſult, contrive and enact *Laws* for the promoting their own *Good* and *Proſperity*, without regarding whether ſuch Laws do either *immediately*, or in the remote *Conſequences* of them, leſſen and prove ſomewhat prejudicial to the *Trade* and Opulency of *England*. Nor can the *Engliſh* juſtly complain of, or blame this Conduct of the *Scots*, conſidering what they have ſo often done themſelves, for the *advancing* their own *Traffick* and *Wealth*; not only without reſpecting whether the Methods, in which they did it, might not be *prejudicial* to the *Scots* Nation, but both under an apparent proſpect that it would infallibly be ſo; and upon the Influence of thoſe Motives, which directly imported that what they did, ſhould unavoidably be to the *Damage* of *Scotland*, by depreſſing it, and keeping it impotent and indigent. And ſo *juſtifiable* as well as *lawful*, the *Engliſh* judged this manner of procedure towards the *Scots* to be, that they have adapted it for one of the *Maxims* of the *Politicks* of *England*, that in order to render this Kingdom Honourable, Potent and Wealthy, *Scotland* muſt by all imaginable Means be kept Weak and Poor, and thereupon contemptible. Nor hath this been leſs the *Conſequence* and *Effect*, than it was the projected and deſigned *End* of thoſe *Engliſh Laws*, bearing the Titles which I have formerly mentioned: So that upon Suppoſition that the late *Scots Act* was made not only under View, but out of Intention of *leſſening* and abridging the *Trade* of *England*, by means of *extending* and enlarging the *Traffick* of *Scotland*; yet it is no more but meting to the *Engliſh*, as they have meaſured to the *Scots*; and it is but drawing them a *Copy* of what was an *Original* of their own. To which I ſhall only add on this Head, that there never was a Nation that was *independent* upon another, (under whatſoever Incorporations, Confederacies and Unions they might otherwiſe be) that did ever neglect, depart from, or forbear the endeavouring the Advancement of its own Benefit and Reputation in the World, meerly becauſe the Conſequence and Effect thereof might be the leſſening the Profit, and obſtructing the growing and menacing Power and Opulency of another Nation, by which it was overſhadowed and depreſſed.

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Which conducteth me, *Sir*, to the next thing, which I ſhall preſume to lay before you, namely how much, many of your great People, through denying themſelves liberty to think, as well as of your *forty thouſand Pound* Men of the *Mob* at *Garraways*, (to whom God hath given *Riches* for denying them *Underſtanding* and good Nature) are miſtaken, *firſt* in believing themſelves, and *then* in attempting to impoſe their belief upon others, that the *Scots Act* for the Erecting of a *Company* to *trade* to *Africa* and the *Eaſt-Indies*, will be of prejudice to the *Kingdom* of *England*, and to the *Commerce* and *Traffick* thereof. Whereas upon the Uſe of all the Senſe I have, and after the outmoſt exerciſe of that reaſonable Faculty which God hath given me, I am ſo far from being of their Mind, that I do judg nothing to be more calculated and adapted for the Advantage of this *Kingdom*, than the *Eſtabliſhment* of that *Company* is; and that the obſtructing the Execution of that *Scots Act*, will be of fatal Conſequence to *England*, and eſpecially to their Societies trading to *Africa* and the *Eaſt-Indies*; ſeeing this *Company* which the *Scots* are eſtabliſhing, is not to drive a *Traffick* with ſome little *Iſland*, or diminutive Place, where all the *Trade* is already preoccupy'd, engroſs'd and monopolized, but it is to carry on a *Commerce* on *two* vaſt *Continents*, and all their adjacent *Iſlands*; where (beſides what is already entered upon and poſſeſſed by the *Engliſh*) there are many large *Territories*, for others to occupy and found a *Traffick* in, and theſe no leſs fertile in Productions and Manufactures, fit to be imported into *Europe*, and there vended and diſpoſed to great Profit, than they are willing, inclinable and prepared to take of what we can export unto them, of both Kinds of our own. Indeed were the *Scots Act* framed and intended to worm and ſupplant the *Engliſh* out of thoſe Shares of the *Indian* and *African* Trades, of which they are poſſeſſed, or to drive them from their *Forts* and *Factories*, I do think he ſhould not have Engliſh Blood in his Veins, who would not warmly reſent the Deſign, and endeavour not only to prevent the Execution of it, but to revenge the Attempt upon thoſe that have projected it. But as the *Scots* have no intention of making the leaſt Encroachments upon the *Engliſh*, in any of thoſe particular Places where they have eſtabliſhed a *Commerce*: So it will be both for the *Honour* of *Great-Britain*, and prove exceeding

exceeding contributory to the *Opulency* of *England*, as well as of *Scotland*, to get a larger Share of the *African* and *East-India* Trades into their *joint* and *associated* Hands, than the two *Companies* of *England* of those Denominations trading thither, have been hitherto able to compass and obtain, or can be in a Condition singly to carry on and support. Seeing as it may be done without the *one's* encroaching upon, or interfering with the *other* there; so there is *Vent* in *Europe* for more *East-India* Goods than both the Nations can import and bring from thence, were the *Stocks* of each of them *larger*, and their *Trades* more flourishing than that of the *one* ever was, or than there is any prospect that *either* of them will at any time hereafter come to be. And while several other *Nations* (betwixt whom and *England* there are none of the Obligations of Friendship, mutual Aid, and Assistance which are between the *English* and the *Scots*) are endeavouring to establish, promote and support *Trades* both to *Africa* and the *East-Indies*, it is matter of Wonder and Surprize, that the *English* should rather desire to have the *French*, *Danes*, *Brandenburgers*, &c. become Partakers and Sharers in those *Trades*, and with as large Privileges and Immunities as any mentioned in the *Northern Act*, than that the *Scots* should have any Portion in them; which would provoke some, that are not very ready to entertain Jealousies, to think that notwithstanding the *two* Kingdoms have been so long under *the same* Soveraign, and have lived in the mutual Exercises of many Offices which had an exterior shew of Friendship, that yet after all there remaineth too much of the antient National *Pique*? And God grant that it arrive not at last to a Rupture, and thereupon to such an Enmity as useth to be the Effect of Strife and Discord, when those that have been Friends, and supposed to lie in one anothers Bosom, come to quarrel and fall out. Nor is it unworthy of Remark, how that in *Edward the Confessor's* Days, the *Amity* between these *two* Nations was so warm and seemingly indissoluble, that (notwithstanding their being under different Monarchs) that good King would not suffer the *Scots* to be stiled nor accounted *Aliens*, and much less to be treated as such, (as some of late, in Contempt as well as Neglect of their being under *one* Soveraign, have been endeavouring they should) which yet soon after (upon Motives which I shall not now mention)

not

not only grew cold, but became exchanged into that mutual Hatred, which many Ages could not allay, nor thoſe Seas of Blood, ſhed in their Wars againſt one another, totally and finally extinguiſh, until by the Wiſe and Gracious Providence of God, they became the Subjects of one and the ſame King; and inſtead of continuing to be diſtinguiſhed by the Titles of the *Kingdoms* of *England* and *Scotland*, which had been the Badges of their Variance, they grew ſo far *united* into *one Monarchy*, as to be denominated by the *ſtile* of *Great-Britain*, which is equally applicable unto, and comprehends *both*. To which allow me to add, that the *Dutch* having already poſſeſſed themſelves of the moſt *beneficial* Parts of the *African*, as well as of the *Eaſt-India* Trades, and having not only raiſed themſelves to wonderful Grandure and Opulency in the *Indies*, but attained to that Soveraignty of Power, as both to give Laws to moſt of the Princes of thoſe Eaſtern Dominions, and to make Depredations and Encroachments upon, and ſubdue and diſpoſſeſs whom they pleaſe; it is matter of great Amazement, that the Engliſh ſhould not be willing to admit the *Scots* to eſtabliſh a *Trade* to the *Eaſt-Indies*, if it were but that by their *joining*, and uniting their *Force* and Power with that of the *Engliſh*, the *Dutch* may be reſiſted and withſtood in thoſe Invaſions and Rapines which they are inclinable enough to commit upon the *Engliſh*. And there is reaſon to expect that *England*, even through the Advice of their own *Eaſt-India-Company*, ſhould encourage the Scots in what they are attempting, rather than to obſtruct and diſhearten them, conſidering what the *Dutch*, by *Force* as well as *Fraud*, have wreſted from and diſpoſſeſſed the *Engliſh* of; and that chiefly through their want of ſufficient Numbers of Men in the *Eaſt-Indies*, to protect and defend their *Forts*, Factories and Plantations, with which *Scotland* can both eaſily and abundantly furniſh them, if the late *Act* of that Kingdom, for erecting an *Eaſt-India* Company, obtain and have the Succeſs that is deſigned by it, and meet not with *Oppoſition* from thoſe, whoſe true *Intereſt* it is to *further* and *promote* it. Concerning which *Act* and *Company* it was enacted to give an Eſtabliſhment unto, I will aſſume the liberty further to ſay, that the one ſeems framed, and the other erected under view, and with an Intention of as much *Advantage* to accrue to *England*, as what *Scotland*

land it ſelf propoſeth to gain, or can have any proſpect of. For as a full *Moiety*, if not *two Thirds*, deſigned to be raiſed upon the Encouragement and in the Execution of that *Act*, will (or at leaſt may) be the *Money* of Engliſh-men, continuing to live and reſide in this Kingdom: So the *Profit* that ariſeth from the management of the *Scots* Stock, will (in proportion thereunto) fall to the *Engliſh*, and become a Part of their *Capital*. So that beſides the Satisfaction which (by this Means) will be given to many *Engliſh*, who have been diſcontented, through their want of *Shares* in the *Eaſt-India* Company of *England*, and have therefore run upon *Interloping*, (which this will alſo put a Period to); moſt of all the *Gain* ariſing by the *Trade* of the *Scots* Company, will center in *England*, and in time add greatly to the Treaſure of this *Kingdom*. Which *Benefit* being *National* and Univerſal, may be accounted more than a Compenſation for any Damage, that the *Scots Eaſt-India* Company can be ſuppoſed to do to the Engliſh Corporation of that Denomination. And foraſmuch as the *Northern* Society cannot prejudice their *Southern* Neighbours in the Vent of their Commodities, either as to what the *Scots* themſelves uſed to take off, nor in what they uſed to diſpoſe elſewhere; ſeeing that as the greateſt Part, if not the whole *Indian* Goods that have been conſumed in *Scotland*, were uſually brought in and imported from *Holland*, where they are purchaſed cheaper than they can be in *England*: So the Engliſh Company can be no ways prejudiced, in relation to thoſe *Indian* Commodities which they have hitherto diſpoſed elſewhere in any Parts of *Europe*; Becauſe that as theſe *Foreign* Countries are ready to take off and conſume more than both the *Engliſh* and *Scots* Companies can furniſh them with, it will likewiſe be many Years before the *Scots Company* (by reaſon both of the vaſt Charge they muſt be at, in ſettling their *Trade*, and the many *Difficulties* and Loſſes incident to *Beginners*) can be in a Condition to under-ſell the Engliſh, which is the only way they can be imagined to have, of worming the Engliſh out of the *Vent* and Sale of their Commodities: So that the whole Prejudice which can be ſuppoſed to befal the Engliſh *Eaſt-India* Company, through the Execution of the *Scots Act*, reſolves it ſelf into the *Immunity* of the *Scots* from paying *Cuſtoms* for 21 Years, while the Engliſh remain all that while under ſuch a *Tribute*, *Tax* and

Impoſition: which, *Sir*, ſuffer me to ſay, is not a Matter of that Importance, as to deſerve all the Noiſe that is made about the *Scots* Company. And tho I be not ſo much a *Philoſopher*, as either to ſmile at the ſeeing an *Aſs* eat *Thiſtles*, or at the beholding a *Gown-man* of 70 reading a *Madrigal* with his *Spectacles* on; yet I can hardly forbear laughing to find a Nation that is called *Wiſe*, and which really is ſo, to fill both the *Kingdoms*, and the adjacent Parts of the World, with Clamour and Twattle, becauſe the Engliſh *Eaſt-India* Company pays *Cuſtoms* for all it imports from thence, while the *Scots* are for a few Years to be exempted from it; but who are during that time to be at the Expence of double the Value of that Impoſition in the neceſſary *Charges* they muſt be at, in the erecting *Forts* and eſtabliſhing *Factories*, and towards the ſettling of their Trade, to make it *practicable* as well as *ſafe:* Which if they prove ſo fortunate as to compaſs and effect, they will not only after the Expiration of that Term of Years, be contented to be liable to pay *Cuſtoms*; but that Kingdom may in that time, by the Means of their acquired and improved *Trade*, be in a Condition to contribute more, both to the *Support* of the *Civil Government* of theſe Nations; and to the defraying of the *Charges* of any *War*, which the *Kingdoms* may come to be engaged in, than they have hitherto been in a Capacity to do, and thereby leſſen the Expenſes of *England*, greatly beyond what they are for 21 Years to be *excuſed* from in *Cuſtoms*.

Sir, before I eaſe you of the Trouble which I have given you, I ſhould lay under your View the ſeveral *Ways* and *Methods* which *your Houſe*, as well as the *Houſe* of *Peers*, are taking to defeat the Deſign of the *Scots Act*, and ſhould make thoſe Reflections upon them which are juſt and natural, as well as obvious. But the whole Procedure in that Matter being ſomewhat extraordinary, I ſhall not venture upon it, ſeeing it cannot be done as it ought, with that Reſpect and Reverence which is due to ſuch awful and auguſt Bodies. And therefore all I will ſay, ſhall be only theſe two Things: *Firſt*, That the *two Houſes* ſeem to contribute fully as much to the *Intereſt* and Reputation of the *Scots Company*, as the *Parliament* of that Kingdom has done in giving *it being*, by thinking it worthy of ſo much of their Notice, Time and Debate, as they have beſtowed upon it; eſpecially at this Seaſon,

for, when their whole Time and utmoſt Abilities are little enough to be imployed in the *redreſſing* the *Grievances* of their *own Country*, and in finding out *Ways* and *Means* for carrying on the *War* againſt *France*, and for enabling the King to touch that *Foreign* Monarch in the ſenſible Part. For, believe me, *Sir*, the generality of Mankind have conceived a greater Eſteem for the *Scots Eaſt-India* Company, and have entertained more favourable Thoughts of its Succeſs than otherwiſe they would, meerly from the *Jealouſies* you have expreſt, and the *Oppoſition* you are giving unto *it*. And then, *ſecondly*, That all the Ways and Methods you have hitherto fallen upon for the obſtructing the Execution of the *Scots Act*, and the giving *Diſcouragement* to their *Trade* to *Africa* and the *Eaſt-Indies*, is perfectly a *Conſpiracy* againſt your ſelves, and the carrying on a *Plot* to endamage and miſchieve *England*: For do you think, *Sir*, that by forbidding any of the Subjects of *England* to build Ships for, or to ſell to the *Scots* ſuch as are built already, you will diſable and incapacitate them from proceeding in their Undertaking? ſeeing they may buy of the *Hollanders* as many as they will, and of what Bulk they pleaſe, and at cheaper Rates than they could do here. So that this, inſtead of being an Obſtruction to the *Scots*, will only injure your ſelves, and benefit the *Dutch*. And then as for the prohibiting any of the Subjects of *England* to become Partners in the *Scots Stock*; as it will tempt many of your wealthy People to leave *England* and to withdraw to *Scotland*, which few Men (out of meer fondneſs to their Country) will forbear to do, when their Intereſt tempts them to it; ſo the *Scots* cannot want enough of other Nations to become Partners in their Stock and Trade, upon the *Engliſh* declining of it. And as hundreds of the *Dutch* particularly, will both greedily and thankfully embrace the Propoſal; ſo I dread to mention the Conſequences which may enſue upon ſuch a Conjunction between the *Scots* and *them*. Nor will I call over the other Methods you have been upon for fruſtrating the *Scots* Attempt in the Erection of an *Eaſt-India* Company, becauſe the very mentioning of them would be to expoſe them, which the great Honour that I bear for thoſe *Aſſemblies* at *Weſtminſter*, will not admit

admit me to do: And therefore I will here end, and only assure you, that tho I be a Stranger to you, yet the very taking the liberty to address this Paper to you, sheweth how Ambitious I am, and how much I do value my self, upon the obtaining any Occasion of testifying with what Sincerity I am,

Jan. 11. 169⅞. *SIR,*

Your most humble and most obedient Servant,

C. K.

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